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GOSSIP FOR HIRE! Columnist **R. Couri Hay**, the highest paid gossiper in the business, says he's no longer technically employed by the National Enquirer and has given up hundreds of thousands of dollars to put himself into the open market where he can hire out independently for print and the media. He cut his stack of credit cards in half and mailed them back to his Florida publisher. We may continue to see Couri's face and column in the tabloid but he insists, "I am now an independent walking, talking gossip machine. I must show I am serious about what appears under my byline and about the truth!"

The high-minded Mr. Hay will host Hollywood's campiest bash on Oscar day at the El Padrino room of the Beverly Wilshire when he'll fete '50s movie idol, **Tab Hunter**, at a seated lunch.

4-13-83

ANOTHER GET-TOGETHER was held at the Beverly Wilshire, where gossip's **R. Couri Hay** gave a pre-Oscar lunch for **Tab Hunter**. Over the lobster and champagne, everybody obligingly touched the ice-sculpted Oscar for good luck. The guest list was both sublime and ridic: **Barbara Carrera, Phyllis Diller, Gloria (Mrs. Harold) Robbins, Mary McFadden, Anthony Hadden Guest, Celese Huston, et al.** Carol Connors got up to sing the song she and **Marvin Hamlisch** wrote for "Sophie's Choice" and suddenly Carol was at a loss for her own words. She had to be prompted throughout because the lyrics kept escaping her.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1979

PIE-KILL sputtered last night when **Allan** ("Grease") **Carr** was hit with a pastry at a party in Morrison's in L.A. Carr just behaved the way **Loretta Young** would have and went right on talking through the goo. Some of the guests didn't even see the incident. Gossip **Couri Hay** is being blamed as retaliating for things dumped on him at Carr's instigation a few weeks back, also in Morrison's.

Wednesday, July 6, 1983

SLOWLY FADING away from the National Enquirer will be the face and byline of longtime columnist **R. Couri Hay**. Nobody wants to admit that the reason Couri will move to greener pastures is because the supermarket tabloid never allowed him control to write or edit his own material.... **Farrah Fawcett** more than "arrived" on television some years back, but now she has "arrived" in the theater. Sardi's, impressed with her work in the

JUNE 28, 1979

MORE RAVING: **Zandra Rhodes** and **Couri Hay**, the British designer and the American gossip, were very much together. Couri is about to become part of an NBC pilot for a magazine show to come on after the 7 o'clock news. Zandra needs no explanation; any woman who dyes part of her hair shocking pink so that it resembles a feather hat has her "own thing" neatly in hand. (Or, on head.)

MAY 25, 1978

THE GREATEST! You may know the names of **Oleg Cassini, Diane von Furstenburg, Halston, Bill Blass** and **Oscar de la Renta** as well as you know the names of your own children, but do you know the greatest American name in fashion? It is that of **Charles James**, a brilliant eccentric who more or less dropped out of the rat race some years back after making an indelible mark on the scene.

This grand old man has been living at New York's colorful Chelsea Hotel for the past 15 years and, along with composer **Virgil Thompson**, is one of that landmark's most famous tenants. Now James is about to be evicted and his pals are drumming up some financial support for this living legend. Designer **Jacques Bellini** has already given monumental help, and so has the brilliant jewelry designer **Elsa Peretti** and the fashion plate **Bessie de Cuevas**. (James still designs clothes privately for these two fashionables.)

You can see the beginning of a stupendous 12-part cable television series called "The Charles James Story" on the "R. Couri Hay Reporting" show in New York starting this Saturday, Channel C, at 7 p.m. Surely public TV will pick this up for the rest of the country. If you want to give Charlie James a hand, write him at the Chelsea Hotel where everybody hopes the management is thinking it over.